

66-5417A

10 January 1967

The Honorable Chet Holifield, Chairman
Joint Committee on Atomic Energy
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This is in response to your letter of 27 December 1966 requesting that the Joint Committee be informed each time evidence is received that a nuclear test may have occurred.

The Committee's understanding is correct regarding the procedures which are followed in reaching a determination as to whether, upon the basis of an initial alert, a nuclear weapons test has, in fact, taken place. An alert, in this context, constitutes unconfirmed and unevaluated information to the effect that a nuclear test may have occurred. I have, however, no objections to notifying the Joint Committee that such an alert has been reported and that representatives of the various interested agencies have been notified of a planned meeting to make the determination.

The existing procedures of notifying the Committee of the substance of the determinations reached by the Joint Atomic Energy Intelligence Committee will be continued.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

Richard Helms

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Director [initials]

CONCUR: /

STAT

Carl Duckett
Acting DD/S&T

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